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TO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

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AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
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ALL POSTS FOR PAO, USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KPAO
SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCE, APRIL 22, 2002

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 2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, APRIL 19 (CUBA)
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 4. TAKEN QUESTIONS, APRIL 19 (CANADA, VENEZEULA)
- END SUMMARY.

- 1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, APRIL 22, 2002

-- VENEZUELA: AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO MEETING WITH
CARMONA/ASSERTIONS U.S. TOO CLOSE TO OPPOSITION --
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Q: WHAT DID AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO SAY TO PEDRO CARMONA?

A: AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO SPOKE WITH PEDRO CARMONA TWICE IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF APRIL 11. FIRST, ON APRIL 12 BEFORE CARMONA SWORE HIMSELF IN, AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO PHONED CARMONA AND TOLD HIM THAT ANY POLITICAL TRANSITION PROCESS HAD TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC AND URGED HIM NOT TO DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ON APRIL 13, AFTER CARMONA HAD SWORN HIMSELF IN AS THE &INTERIM PROVISIONAL PRESIDENTS AND HAD DISSOLVED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO MET WITH CARMONA (AT MIRAFLORES PALACE) AND PROVIDED HIM A COPY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER, URGED HIM TO RE-ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TO MOVE TO ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND TO CONTACT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) SECRETARY GENERAL TO WELCOME AN OAS DELEGATION.

DURING HIS MEETING WITH INTERIM PRESIDENT CARMONA, AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO URGED CARMONA TO IMMEDIATELY RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND NORMALIZE DEMOCRATIC RULE IN VENEZUELA.

OUR MESSAGE TO ALL VENEZUELAN CONTACTS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT: THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN VENEZUELA IS ONE FOR VENEZUELAN TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY, DEMOCRATICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY. WE EXPLICITLY TOLD ALL OF OUR VENEZUELAN INTERLOCUTORS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND AT MANY LEVELS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT ANY UNCONSTITUTIONAL, UNDEMOCRATIC EFFORT, SUCH AS A COUP.

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Q: WHAT ABOUT ASSERTIONS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TOO CLOSE TO THOSE VENEZUELAN WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF
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APRIL 11-13?

A: U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE MET WITH A BROAD SPECTRUM OF VENEZUELAN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BOTH IN CARACAS AND IN WASHINGTON. U.S. OFFICIALS MET WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS, OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS, PRO-CHAVEZ LEGISLATORS, AND A WIDE ARRAY OF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, U.S. OFFICIALS MET WITH PEDRO CARMONA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (FEDECAMARAS).

OUR MESSAGE TO ALL VENEZUELAN CONTACTS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT. THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN VENEZUELA IS ONE FOR VENEZUELAN TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY, DEMOCRATICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY. WE EXPLICITLY TOLD ALL OF OUR VENEZUELAN INTERLOCUTORS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND AT MANY LEVELS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT ANY UNCONSTITUTIONAL, UNDEMOCRATIC EFFORT, SUCH AS A COUP.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE STATEMENT OF A DIPLOMAT PRESENT AT A FEBRUARY 12 MEETING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT CHAVEZ HAD RESIGNED?

A: OUR RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA ON APRIL 12 LAID OUT THE FACTS AS WE KNEW THEM TO BE DURING A VERY CONFUSING TIME. THOSE FACTS WERE THAT: (1) HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VENEZUELAN DEMONSTRATED PEACEFULLY AGAINST THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT, (2) THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT RESPONDED WITH A BLOODY CRACK-DOWN AGAINST PROTESTORS AND THE INDEPENDENT
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MEDIA, (3) PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAD DISMISSED HIS VICE PRESIDENT AND CABINET AND RESIGNED, AND (4) A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSUME POWER AND CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

IN ALL OF OUR STATEMENTS, WE EMPHASIZED THAT VENEZUELAN NEEDED TO RESOLVE THIS SITUATION PEACEFULLY, DEMOCRATICALLY, AND CONSTITUTIONALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER. AS STATED BEFORE, IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAD RESIGNED AND THAT THERE WAS NO SUCCESSOR. IT WAS UP TO VENEZUELAN TO DECIDE HOW TO RESOLVE THIS SUCCESSION CRISIS. ONCE VENEZUELAN HAD

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DETERMINED THEIR PATH FORWARD, THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
WOULD EXAMINE THIS VENEZUELAN SOLUTION TO DETERMINE IF IT WAS
IN KEEPING WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER.

2. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, APRIL 19, 2002

-- CUBA: VOTE ON UNCHR HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION --

Q: THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR) HAS AGAIN VOTED
TO ADMONISH CUBA OVER REPRESSING ITS CITIZENS' HUMAN RIGHTS.
ANY COMMENT?

A: TODAY'S 23-21-09 VOTE WAS A VICTORY FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE.
IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE WORLD IS AWARE OF THEIR PLIGHT AND
SUPPORTS THEIR BRAVE EFFORTS TO PRESS FOR BETTER HUMAN RIGHTS
OBSERVANCE AND FOR DEMOCRACY IN CUBA.
IT ALSO SENDS AN UNAMBIGUOUS MESSAGE TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT:
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FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR , THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
HAS FOUND THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CUBA WANTING.

THERE'S SOMETHING NEW HERE: FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, CUBA'S
NEIGHBORS IN LATIN AMERICA DRAFTED, INTRODUCED, AND BROADLY
SUPPORTED WITH THEIR CO-SPONSORSHIPS AND VOTES A RESOLUTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA. PARTICULAR CREDIT MUST GO TO
URUGUAY, FOR TABLING THIS REMARKABLE AND GROUNDBREAKING
EFFORT, AND TO ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH LENT
THEIR SUPPORT TO THE RESOLUTION.

IMPORTANTLY, THE RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE CUBAN REGIME TO MAKE
PROGRESS IN THE FIELDS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND REQUESTS THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO
SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO CUBA AND REPORT BACK TO THE
COMMISSION.

WE CALL ON CUBA TO COMPLY WITH THE WILL OF THE UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION AND PERMIT THIS REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT IN
ORDER TO HELP CUBA MAKE THE NECESSARY PROGRESS IN THE FIELD
OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

3. S/CT PRESS GUIDANCE , APRIL 19, 2002

-- ECUADOR: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS --

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QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD ARMITAGE SAID THAT AL
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QAEDA AND HIZBOLLAH ARE OPERATING IN OR NEAR ECUADOR?

A: THOSE REPORTS ARE INCORRECT. WE ARE AWARE OF THE
PRESENCE IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF SOUTH AMERICA OF INDIVIDUALS
AND GROUPS LINKED TO HIZBOLLAH AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS,
AND OF REPORTS THAT INDIVIDUALS LINKED TO AL QAEDA MAY, AT
TIMES, HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE CONTINENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE INCREASING
EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS BY A NUMBER OF
LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF COLOMBIA AND
THE NATIONS OF THE TRI-BORDER AREA, MAY FORCE THESE TERRORIST
ELEMENTS TO SEEK NEW SAFE HAVENS AND AREAS OF OPERATIONS.

WE WANT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
HEMISPHERE TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING.

4. TAKEN QUESTIONS, APRIL 19, 2002:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 19, 2002
2002/350
QUESTION TAKEN AT APRIL 19, 2002 DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

-- U.S. EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE --
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QUESTION: WHAT ADDITIONAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE WE HAD TO
OFFER CONDOLENCES FOR THE CANADIAN SOLDIERS WHO WERE KILLED
IN THE FRIENDLY FIRE INCIDENT IN AFGHANISTAN?

ANSWER: UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, PAUL CELLUCCI HAS
PERSONALLY EXTENDED THE CONDOLENCES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, FOREIGN MINISTER GRAHAM AND
MINISTER OF DEFENSE EGGLETON. AMBASSADOR CELLUCCI ALSO
RELEASED A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THURSDAY EXPRESSING OUR DEEP
REGRET FOR THE DEATHS IN THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT. THE
AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT, AND PRESIDENT BUSH'S STATEMENT ON
APRIL 18 ARE BOTH POSTED ON EMBASSY OTTAWA'S WEB SITE

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(WWW.USEMBASSYCANADA.GOV) .

THE AMERICAN FLAG AT OUR EMBASSY IN OTTAWA HAS FLOWN AT HALF
MAST SINCE THURSDAY MORNING IN HONOR OF THOSE KILLED.

AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY
THAT RECEIVES THE REMAINS OF THOSE TRAGICALLY LOST IN
AFGANISTAN WHEN THEY ARE RETURNED TO CANADA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 19, 2002

2002/351

QUESTION TAKEN AT APRIL 19, 2002 DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

-- VENEZUELA: MEETINGS BETWEEN U.S. AND VENEZUELAN
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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS --

QUESTION: HAVE U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SINCE SUNDAY, APRIL 14?

ANSWER: OFFICIALS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA,
INCLUDING AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO, HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS OTTO J. REICH MET EARLIER THIS
AFTERNOON IN WASHINGTON WITH VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS LUIS D VILA AND VENEZUELA,S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) JORGE VALERO
ATTENDED A LUNCHEON APRIL 19 HOSTED BY ASSISTANT REICH FOR A
GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.
POWELL

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